

Remarks:

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his thorough review of this case, including the expediting provision of a teleconference afforded on July 20, 2006 for the purpose of electing a species. Applicant hereby confirms that invention I was elected during the teleconference. The afore-listed amendment to the claims, specification, and drawings have been made in accordance with the Office Action. Applicant respectfully requests further consideration of the same in accordance therewith:

STATUS OF DRAWINGS

Figure 4 is amended herein to include reference label, "70," wherein said label generally points towards the self-adjusting mechanism (i.e., the VELCRO[®] strip). A replacement drawing sheet is attached hereto as Appendix A, and demarked "Replacement Sheet" in the top margin, pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.121 (d). A second formal copy of this revised drawing sheet is also provided as a courtesy.

STATUS OF SPECIFICATION

The specification is amended herein pursuant to the suggested spelling and grammatical corrections raised in the Office Action. Further, reference label "62" is deleted from the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 17, as said label was erroneously utilized twice. In FIGS. 1b and 4, the intended use of reference label "62" can be determined.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 12 and 15-20 have been canceled; claims 21-23 have been added as new claims; and claim 1 has been amended, such that claims 1-11, 13, 14, and 21-23 are pending and currently being prosecuted on the merits.

The amendment to claim 1 herein has been made in accordance with paragraph 20 of the Office Action to overcome objections raised to original claim 12. More particularly, claim 1 has been amended so as to recite the invention claimed by original claim 12 in independent format. The remaining claims (i.e., claims 2-11, 13, 14 and 21-23) depend from amended claim 1. It is noted that in the Office Action, the subject matter claimed by original claim 12 has been otherwise deemed allowable. The amendment was made to claim 1 (as opposed to claim 12, and

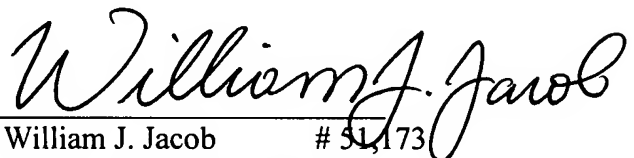
then to claims 2-11, 13, 14 and 21-23, so as to depend from claim 12) in effort to prevent the need for an Examiner's amendment to renumber the claims to reflect the numbering as submitted herein.

As such, Applicant submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests a corresponding Notice of Allowance for the currently pending claims.

Applicant further states that this response does not address the merits of the § 103(a) rejections raised in the Office Action, and to the extent that such rejections are deemed admitted or accepted without traverse by this response, hereby traverses the same.

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a.3) and 1.17(a), a check in the amount of \$225.00 is submitted and enclosed herewith, as a two-month extension fee. In the event of any questions, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully Submitted,

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INVENTOR

Appendix A